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Salt Lake, crystals of mirabilite and others of common salt were formed, and these impressed the mud, producing straight lines though without rectilinear intersections. The writer says with reference to this last experiment:

"One would hardly hold, even as a working hypothesis, that lines of 200 or 500 cm. could be produced in any such way; though the supposition may be ventured that under particularly favorable conditions a thin crystalline cake might form on shore sediments, and this by a cleavage of its own might become fissured in an orderly way, the cracks extending to the mud surface beneath, and marking the same superficially; or if the under stratum had a very thin top layer of fine-grained material the depressions might extend through the same. A fresh addition of sediment would fill the cracks and perpetuate the mud marks, while the deposit of soluble mineral might be removed by solution. Shallow line-like depressions in the mud might possibly determine the position of incipient cracks in a subsequent process of slow shrinkage. However, such suppositions lack a stable experimental foundation."

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